

2011 GENERAL FUND BUDGET
EXPENDITURES TO DROP FOR 2011

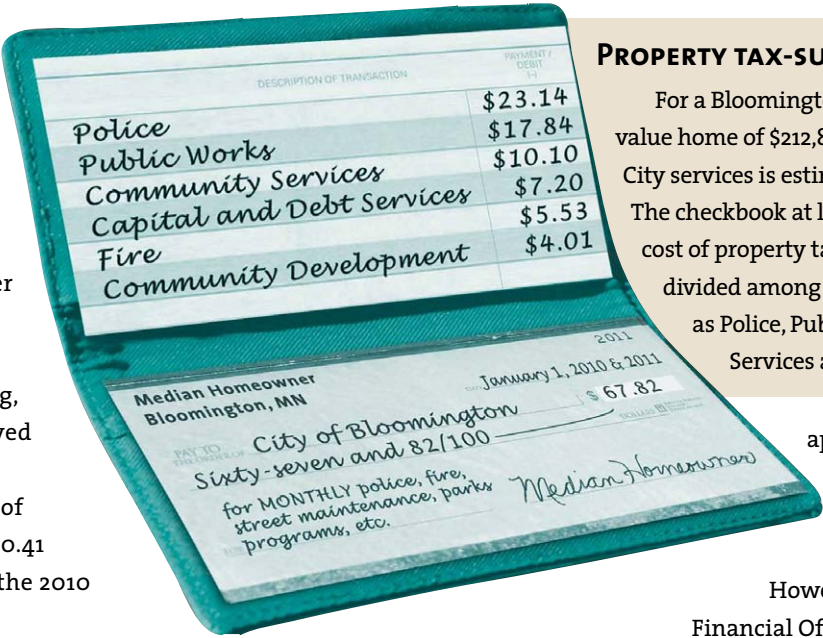
Based on its monthly tracking of revenues and expenditures, the City began the budgeting process earlier this year in order to predict upcoming trends for 2011 - 2012. At a September meeting, the City Council approved a preliminary general operating fund budget of \$54,486,414, that was a 0.41 percent decrease from the 2010 budget of \$54,710,503.

The City Council also approved a preliminary levy of \$44,552,753 for 2011, a 0.12 percent decrease from 2010. The levy decrease comes despite expected revenue losses from state market value homestead credits, permits, interest earnings on investments and unpaid property taxes.

The preliminary levy can be reduced, but not increased, before final adoption in December. The proposed budget represents more preparation earlier in the process than is done in a normal fiscal year.

To maintain City service levels, the City continues ongoing efforts to be cost effective. If the final 2011 levy increase is approved at this preliminary level, the average annual increase in the City's levy from 1996 - 2011 would be 3.72 percent.

For a Bloomington resident with a median



PROPERTY TAX-SUPPORTED SERVICES

For a Bloomington resident with a median value home of \$212,800, the monthly cost of City services is estimated to be \$67.82 for 2011. The checkbook at left shows how the monthly cost of property tax-supported services is divided among City departments such as Police, Public Works, Community Services and Fire.

approximately in half between residential, including apartment uses, and commercial/industrial uses.

However, according to Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler, the current economic climate is having a more variable impact on real estate values of many property types.

"Different types of properties, or even the same types of properties, don't always move in sync and sometimes the burden shifts to the homeowner rather than the commercial property owner," Economy-Scholler said.

The City made adjustments in 2002 through 2010 for declining local revenues.

For more information, contact Chief Financial Officer Lori Economy-Scholler at 952-563-8791 or e-mail leconomy@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: FINANCE.

A public hearing on the tax levy and budget will be held Monday, December 6 at 6 p.m., in the Council Chambers at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.



HELP FOR YOUR HOME
GRANT AND LOAN FUNDS FOR IMPROVING FORECLOSED HOMES

Due to the success of last year's program, the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is again offering its Foreclosed Housing Improvement Program (FHIP).

If you are purchasing or have purchased a foreclosed home within the last 12 months, you may be eligible to receive up to \$20,000 for home improvements.

Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to, siding, windows, roofing and mechanical systems.

One-half of the original borrowed amount will not have to be repaid if the recipient lives in the home for five years after receiving the loan. The remaining half will accrue interest at an annual rate of 5 percent for a period of 10 years and will not have to be repaid until the property is no longer the borrower's principal place of residence, or the owner sells or transfers the title.

To obtain an FHIP loan, the home must be your primary residence.

For more information, call 952-563-8937.

To receive the latest updates from HRA, sign up to receive HRA online E-Subscribe alerts.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: HRA.



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RAMBLER REDO SERIES
MAKE A WELCOMING FIRST IMPRESSION



Perhaps the most logical place to start improving your rambler is the first space you encounter when you and your guests arrive at your home: the front entryway.

We all know that first impressions matter. Yet often, a rambler's front door is tucked under the limited overhang of the main roof and the entry door is hidden. This offers very little space to sit and talk to neighbors or find shelter

from the weather when you're fishing through your pockets for your keys.

Adding a porch is a great solution. A porch will enhance your entry area and add curb appeal to your home.

Tan Nguyen from Nguyen Architects offers the following tips for adding value and curb appeal to your rambler home without compromising the character of your home's original design.

When planning an entryway addition:

- 1 Look at the shape of your home's roof. Be sure to use the same roof pitch and type as your entryway.

- 2 Add columns and trim that reflect your personal style.
- 3 Consider replacing your home's siding using two different siding styles to create interest and texture.
- 4 Check with the City's Planning Division for setback requirements before beginning construction.

No matter what updates you choose to make to your rambler home, be sure the renovations reflect your personal style and preferences.

Look for more rambler remodeling tips in the February Briefing.



An updated version of the rambler above left.

Is your family growing too big for your rambler?
Or maybe you just want a little more space, but don't want to sell your home in a down market?
The Rambler Redo series will show you how to address some of the more common updating and remodeling issues in one of the coolest and most common type of home in Bloomington: the rambler.